Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 wherein the adjustments of the network configuration settings are made through the use of an algorithm that performs statistical analysis on past network configuration setting performance test result data.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein regression is used to perform the statistical analysis.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein a polynomial curve fit is used to perform the statistical analysis.

5. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the statistical analysis is performed by the client machine.

6. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the statistical analysis is performed by the remote server.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of optimizing network configuration settings for a user's client machine, the method comprising:

(a) defining a plurality of groups of network configuration settings;

(b) establishing a network connection between the client machine and a remote server;

(c) selecting one of the groups of network configuration settings for the client machine from the defined groups of settings;

(d) automatically conducting one or more performance tests using the selected network configuration settings during the established network connection;

(e) repeating steps (c) and (d) for one or more other groups of network configuration settings during the established network connection; and

(f) automatically adjusting the network configuration settings of the client machine defined in the groups based on the results of the performance tests, wherein the adjusted network configuration settings are settings that optimize the performance of the client machine.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 further comprising:

(g) the user specifying, via the client machine, at least one network performance preference; and

(h) executing performance metric scoring on each of the different defined groups of network configuration settings, based on a relative weight assigned to the network performance preference.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 wherein logic running on the remote server statistically analyzes the results of the performance tests and determines one or more groups of network configuration settings for use on the client machine.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the logic includes an intelligent optimization algorithm which uses historical performance data to statistically assess positive or negative scoring variations when a particular network configuration setting is adjusted.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 wherein the adjustments of the network configuration settings are made through the use of an algorithm that determines future groups of network configuration settings to test.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 further comprising:

(g) continually monitoring the network configuration performance of the client machine, after step (f) has been performed; and

(h) automatically adjusting the monitored network configuration settings of the client machine to maintain optimal network performance of the client machine.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7 further comprising:

(g) storing on the remote server, groups of network configuration settings and aggregate test results associated with other client machines that previously established a network connection with the remote server[[,]] ~~wherein~~ ; and

(h) the user's client machine ~~receives~~ receiving groups of network configuration setting recommendations from the remote server[[,]] based on the groups of network configuration settings and the aggregate test results stored on the remote server.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 wherein one of the network configuration settings is latency.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 wherein one of the network configuration settings is ping time.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 wherein one of the network configuration settings is network connection stability.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 wherein one of the network configuration settings is Maximum Transmission Unit (MTU).

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 wherein one of the network configuration settings is Maximum Segment Size (MSS).

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 wherein one of the network configuration settings is Receive Window (RWIN).

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 wherein one of the network configuration settings is Time To Live (TTL).

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 wherein one of the network configuration settings is Black Hole Detection.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 wherein one of the network configuration settings is Auto Discovery of Path Maximum Transmission Unit (MTU).

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 wherein one of the network configuration settings is packet size.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 wherein one of the network configuration settings is upload throughput speed.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 wherein one of the network configuration settings is download throughput speed.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 further comprising:

(g) assigning a percentage score to each applicable network configuration setting;

(h) multiplying the relative weight of each network configuration setting by the percentage score for the network configuration setting, wherein the relative weight is determined as a function of the user's network performance preferences; and

(i) adding the resulting products of step (h) to determine a weighted overall percentage score.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 wherein step (c) further comprises:

(c)(i) the user selecting a group of default network configuration settings.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 34 wherein the adjustments of the network configuration settings are made through the use of an algorithm that performs statistical analysis on past network configuration setting performance test result data.

30. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 29 wherein regression is used to perform the statistical analysis.

31. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 29 wherein a polynomial curve fit is used to perform the statistical analysis.

32. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 29 wherein the statistical analysis is performed by the client machine.

33. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 29 wherein the statistical analysis is performed by the remote server.

34. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture for optimizing network configuration settings for a user's client machine, the article of manufacture comprising a computer-readable medium holding computer-executable instructions for performing a method comprising:

(a) defining a plurality of groups of network configuration settings;

(b) establishing a network connection between the client machine and a remote server;

(c) selecting one of the groups of network configuration settings for the client machine from the defined groups of settings;

(d) automatically conducting one or more performance tests using the selected network configuration settings during the established network connection;

(e) repeating steps (c) and (d) for one or more other groups of network configuration settings during the established network connection; and

(f) automatically adjusting the network configuration settings of the client machine defined in the groups based on the results of the performance tests, wherein the adjusted network configuration settings are settings that optimize the performance of the client machine.

35. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 34 wherein the computer-executable instructions perform a method further comprising:

(e) the user specifying, via the client machine, at least one network performance preference; and

(f) executing performance metric scoring on each of the different defined groups of network configuration settings, based on a relative weight assigned to the network performance preference.

36. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 34 wherein logic running on the remote server statistically analyzes the results of the performance tests and determines one or more groups of network configuration settings for use on the client machine.

37. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 36 wherein the logic includes an intelligent optimization algorithm which uses historical performance data to statistically assess positive or negative scoring variations when a particular network configuration setting is adjusted.

38. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 34 wherein the adjustments of the network configuration settings are made through the use of an algorithm that determines future groups of network configuration settings to test.

39. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 34 wherein the computer-executable instructions perform a method further comprising:

(g) continually monitoring the network configuration performance of the client machine, after step (f) has been performed; and

(h) automatically adjusting the monitored network configuration settings of the client machine to maintain optimal network performance of the client machine.

40. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 34 wherein the computer executable instructions perform a method further comprising:

(g) storing on the remote server, groups of network configuration settings and aggregate test results associated with other client machines that previously established a network connection with the remote server[[,]] ~~wherein~~ ; and

(h) the user's client machine ~~receives~~ receiving groups of network configuration setting recommendations from the remote server[[,]] based on the groups of network configuration settings and the aggregate test results stored on the remote server.

41. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 34 wherein one of the network configuration settings is latency.

42. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 34 wherein one of the network configuration settings is ping time.

43. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 34 wherein one of the network configuration settings is network connection stability.

44. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 34 wherein one of the network configuration settings is Maximum Transmission Unit (MTU).

45. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 34 wherein one of the network configuration settings is Maximum Segment Size (MSS).

46. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 34 wherein one of the network configuration settings is Receive Window (RWIN).

47. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 34 wherein one of the network configuration settings is Time To Live (TTL).

48. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 34 wherein one of the network configuration settings is Black Hole Detection.

49. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 34 wherein one of the network configuration settings is Auto Discovery of Path Maximum Transmission Unit (MTU).

50. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 34 wherein one of the network configuration settings is packet size.

51. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 34 wherein one of the network configuration settings is upload throughput speed.

52. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 34 wherein one of the network configuration settings is download throughput speed.

53. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 34 wherein the computer-executable instructions perform a method further comprising:

(g) assigning a percentage score to each applicable network configuration setting;

(h) multiplying the relative weight of each network configuration setting by the percentage score for the network configuration setting, wherein the relative weight is determined as a function of the user's network performance preferences; and

(i) adding the resulting products of step (h) to determine a weighted overall percentage score.

54. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 34 wherein step (c) further comprises:

(c)(i) the user selecting a group of default network configuration settings.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 further comprising:

(g) storing the plurality of groups of network configuration settings in a storage location, wherein step (c) further comprises selecting one of the groups of network configuration settings for the client machine from the storage location.

56. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 34 wherein the computer-executable instructions perform a method further comprising:

(g) storing the plurality of groups of network configuration settings in a storage location, wherein step (c) further comprises selecting one of the groups of network configuration settings for the client machine from the storage location.